

**City of Miami Beach - Commission Workshop
Commission Chambers, 3rd Floor, City Hall
1700 Convention Center Drive
September 21, 2001**

Mayor Neisen O. Kasdin	In at 4:19:50 p.m.
Vice-Mayor Matti Herrera Bower	Absent
Commissioner Simon Cruz	Present
Commissioner David Dermer	In at 3:30 p.m.
Commissioner Luis R. Garcia, Jr.	Present
Commissioner Nancy Liebman	Present
Commissioner Jose Smith	In a 3:59 p.m.

City Manager Jorge M. Gonzalez
City Attorney Murray H. Dubbin
City Clerk Robert E. Parcher

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Workshop called to order at 3:24:07 p.m.

Jorge M. Gonzalez gave an update.

Mr. Bernard Zyscovich made a presentation.

Mr. Howard Herring, President / CEO of the New World Symphony, stated the New World Symphony's commitment to Miami Beach.

Henry Einstein, New World Symphony Board Member, spoke.

Ron Stone, New World Symphony Board Member, spoke.

Commissioner Liebman asked the Administration for the plan to proceed.

Jorge Gonzalez, City Manager, stated that at the October 17 Commission meeting the Administration will bring the concept plan to the Commission for approval and will request direction for the 17th Street site.

Commissioner Liebman stated that the issue of parking needs to be addressed.

Commissioner Cruz wants this project to be as simple and as passive as possible to give the City air space. He expressed the following concerns:

1. He disagrees with closing Drexel Avenue. This might have a negative impact on the properties on Drexel Avenue.
2. He disagrees with moving the Botanical Garden because of the expense.
3. He has concerns about the elevated spaces because it could impact traffic.
4. He feels this is a very complex project, but he agrees with the edges of the project.

Commissioner Garcia feels that the 17th Street and Lincoln Lane part of this project could be done right now with very little money. He does not agree with having delivery trucks coming from Washington Avenue and expressed the same concern as Commissioner Cruz about moving the Botanical Garden. Commissioner Garcia will like to hear other suggestions for Drexel Avenue.

Commissioner Dermer asked how many organizations and/or individuals have been involved in this project, such as the Botanical Garden, Lincoln Road, etc. Mr. Zyscovich stated that they had communication with Collins Avenue Stakeholders, City of Miami Beach Convention Board, Miami Beach Convention Center, New World Symphony, City of Miami Beach Transportation and Parking Committee, Greater Miami Visitors Bureau, Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce, Miami-Dade County Commission, Miami Beach Transit Authority, Miami-Dade Transit, South Beach Hotel & Restaurant Association, Lincoln Road & Washington Avenue Stakeholders, Botanical Garden Conservancy, Arts, Culture and Entertainment and Holocaust Memorial. The Botanical Garden Conservancy was originally against it because they were concerned with delaying their project. They are excited about moving to 17th Street due to the public exposure and are now concerned about an agreement from this Commission not taking place. The Holocaust Memorial supports this new design. All interested parties have given their input on the project.

Doug Tobert, from the Convention Center, expressed his approval for the project.

Mr. Zyscovich has concerns with doing the 17th Street site unless there is commitment from the Commission to do the two blocks surrounding the site and stated that the Administration needs to address the funding of the parking situation.

Commissioner Cruz wants the Administration to come back at the next Commission meeting with a definite plan as to how they will move forward with the project.

Jorge Gonzalez commented on the financial aspects of the project.

Mayor Kasdin feels that the following should be done:

1. This project should be sent to the Planning Board for overall review. Specific items will require further analysis and study.
2. Instructed the Administration to come back to the next commission meeting with a time line for moving forward with the 17th Street site.
3. The Drexel Avenue issue needs to be addressed.

Handouts:

- 1) LTC No. 205-2001 Titled: Special Commission Workshop, September 21, 2001 at 3:00 p.m., Status Report on the 17th Street Site Proposal.
- 2) Zyscovich Inc. Color Booklet, 17th Street Area of Study dated September 21, 2001.

Meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.